

From the desk of
HAROLD BRAZIL

At-Large Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Economic Development

1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 404
Washington, D.C., 20004 (202) 724-8174

For the Week ending October 12, 2001

EMAIL: hbrazil@dccouncil.washington.dc.us or visit our website: www.haroldbrazil.com

Brazil Applauds Task Force Post-9/11/01 Recovery Proposals

Councilmember Brazil and members of the business community developed a series of proposals designed to help DC's financial recovery after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Short-term proposals include calling for the resumption of flights at National Airport to pre-attack levels, extending unemployment benefits for employees laid off as a direct result of the attacks and getting the word out that DC is open for business and tourism. Longer-term proposals include enacting pending tax incentive legislation for downtown market-rate housing, providing additional resources to the DC Marketing Center to promote a positive image for the city, and expediting high-profile projects such as the Convention Center, Newseum, Gallery Place, etc.

"The hard work and efforts of the business community and the City were impressive, and I am confident that by working together, we can effectively manage the post-crisis impact and *keep the momentum going* in the District of Columbia," stated Brazil.

Rhode Island Avenue Metro Plaza Proceeding

In the near future, WMATA's board will vote on a \$58 million proposal to build a "mixed-use" shopping and residential project at the Rhode Island Avenue Metro. The proposal, submitted by Graimark-Walker, the developer of the adjacent Brentwood site, was the only proposal submitted that met the city's requirements for the development of the site.

The project includes 270 housing units, 20% of which will be affordable housing, 65,000 square feet of retail and a sizable parking garage. The project has preliminary commitments from Starbucks, Dress Barn, Blockbuster, Applebee's and others, and will serve as a bridge between the community and the big box retailers (Giant Foods, Kmart and Home Depot) that are being built at the nearby Brentwood site.

"The developer's application for \$40 million in revenue bonds and tax-increment financing will be given serious consideration by my Committee," stated Brazil. "Bringing commercial and residential development to our neighborhoods, particularly around metro stations, is sensible development, and will *keep the momentum going* in our neighborhoods," he continued.

Brazil Chaired Hearing on DHCD's Funding and Oversight of CDCs

Brazil, as Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, held a hearing to gather information on the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) funding of Community Development Corporations (CDC).

The hearing gathered information and examined the following issues:

- How DHCD determines what CDC projects/programs to fund, including the funding of administrative costs
- Proposed revisions and changes to the current DHCD funding policies
- How DHCD reviews and evaluates the performance of CDCs; and
- How DHCD informs CDCs of policy changes

“I want to ensure that the Department of Housing and Community Development is administering CDC funding as effectively as possible. It is crucial that CDCs have the resources and guidance they need to serve their communities,” stated Brazil.

Reminder: Mental Health Screening Still Available

Mental health screening and counseling is still available to those who may be affected by the events of September 11, 2001, or who feel they may otherwise be suffering from depression or anxiety.

A twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week number (1-888-793-4350) has been established to provide information and referrals for crisis intervention, grief counseling and other services. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 202-561-7000. More information is available from the Community Services Agency at 442-4100.